Listing of the Claims:

Note: No claims have been amended, and this listing of the claims is provided for reference only:

1 (original): A method for processing an image to increase sharpness of the image without

5   changing hue characteristics, the method comprising:

      (a) performing a transformation process to transform an original image signal into CIE XYZ colorimetric channels;

      (b) forming a luminance channel Y;

      (c) applying a filter on the luminance channel Y to obtain a processed luminance

10   channel Y';

      (d) computing processed colorimetric channels X' and Z' based on the processed luminance channel Y'; and

      (e) performing an inverse transformation process to transform the processed colorimetric channels X'Y'Z' into a processed image signal.

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      2 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the filter applied in step (c) is an unsharp masking (USM) filter.

      3 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the filter applied in step (c) is a sharpness

20   filter.

      4 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein in step (a) the transformation process comprises transforming RGB values of the original image signal into CIE XYZ colorimetric channels.

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      5 (original): The method of claim 4 wherein in step (e) the inverse transformation process comprises transforming the processed colorimetric channels X'Y'Z' into R'G'B'

values of the processed image signal.

6 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein in step (a) the transformation process comprises transforming CMYK values of the original image signal into CIE XYZ colorimetric channels.

7 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein in step (e) the inverse transformation process comprises transforming the processed colorimetric channels X'Y'Z' into C'M'Y'K' values of the processed image signal.

8 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein in step (d) a relationship between the processed colorimetric channel X' and the colorimetric channel X satisfies the equation $X'=(X/Y)*Y'$.

9 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein in step (d) a relationship between the processed colorimetric channel Z' and the colorimetric channel Z satisfies the equation $Z'=(Z/Y)*Y'$.

10 (original): An image processing apparatus for implementing the method of claim 1.